

State of Montana DPHHS HAN ADVISORY

Distributed via the DPHHS Health Alert Network (HAN) System

Wednesday, August 13, 2008 3:45 PM

DPHHS Health Alert Hotline 1-800-701-5769

*****This is a real DPHHS HAN Message*****

*****Notice of State-Wide DPHHS HAN Test*****

DPHHS is sending this Advisory with a read receipt attached as part of a State-Wide HAN test. When you have reviewed the message reply to the read receipt or send your response to the State of Montana HAN Coordinator at gwheat@mt.gov or call (406) 422-2778 and leave a message indicating who you are and what health jurisdiction you represent.

*****Notice of State-Wide DPHHS HAN Test*****

DPHHS HAN Advisory

Changes in Vaccine Ordering Procedures for Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis

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DPHHS Recommendations: Changes in Vaccine Ordering Procedures for Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) August 13, 2008

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Be aware that RabAvert from Novartis is the *ONLY* rabies vaccine currently available. Vaccine can be ordered through wholesalers and distributors, or directly from Novartis by calling 1-800-244-7668, option 2.

ACTION REQUESTED:

- Review indications for rabies PEP very carefully to minimize inappropriate use of rabies vaccine
 - Obtain exposure source (dog, cat, bat) for quarantined observation and/or testing to avoid unnecessary use of vaccine
 - Animal brain testing can be done at Department of Livestock Veterinary Lab – call 406.994.4885 for details on specimen preparation and submission information
- Contact local public health () or MT-DPHHS Communicable Disease Epi (406.444.0273) (24/7/365) to report possible rabies exposures and discuss need for PEP
- Forward to urgent care providers (emergency rooms, urgent care, clinics) so they know where to obtain PEP and the need for public health consultation

BACKGROUND

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has announced that due to an increase in demand and a production delay, IMOVAX Rabies vaccine made by Sanofi Pasteur is *NOT* currently available. Sanofi Pasteur expects to have doses available again in late-September to early-October.

This development means Novartis RabAvert is the only rabies vaccine currently available. To obtain doses of vaccine for patients needing rabies post-exposure prophylaxis, health care providers may either (1) order vaccine from a wholesaler or distributor and have it drop-shipped directly to the clinic or hospital, or (2) order vaccine directly from Novartis by calling 1-800-244-7668, option 2. A health department confirmation code is not necessary to order vaccine.

To minimize unnecessary use of rabies vaccine, please review the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) human rabies prevention recommendations (see below). To discuss whether PEP is indicated for a patient with potential rabies exposure, consult with local public health () or MT-DPHHS Communicable Disease Epi staff 406.444.0273 (24/7/365).

Vaccine for rabies PEP is released by Novartis on a case-by-case basis and shipped to health care providers. It may take up to 2 days for vaccine to be received. This delay should not represent an increased risk to most patients. Clinicians should inform Novartis of especially high-risk exposures (including bites to the head, face and neck) to request expedited shipment.

Resources

* August 11, 2008 CDC update on the rabies vaccine supply situation:

http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/news/2008-08-11_RabVaxupdate.html

* 2008 recommendations on rabies prevention from ACIP:

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5703a1.htm>

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The goal of Montana's Health Alert Network is to transmit information to local public health authorities as quickly as possible, and assign a suitable priority to the message that is sensitive to the impact of a health-related event providing information relative to the public health and safety of Montanans. For questions or comments relative to Montana's HAN system you may contact the DPHHS HAN Coordinator, Gerry Wheat at <mailto:gwheat@mt.gov>

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

You have received this message based upon the information contained within our emergency notification data base. If you have a different or additional e-mail or fax address that you would like us to use please notify us as soon as possible by e-mail at hhshan@mt.gov <mailto:hhshan@mt.gov>

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